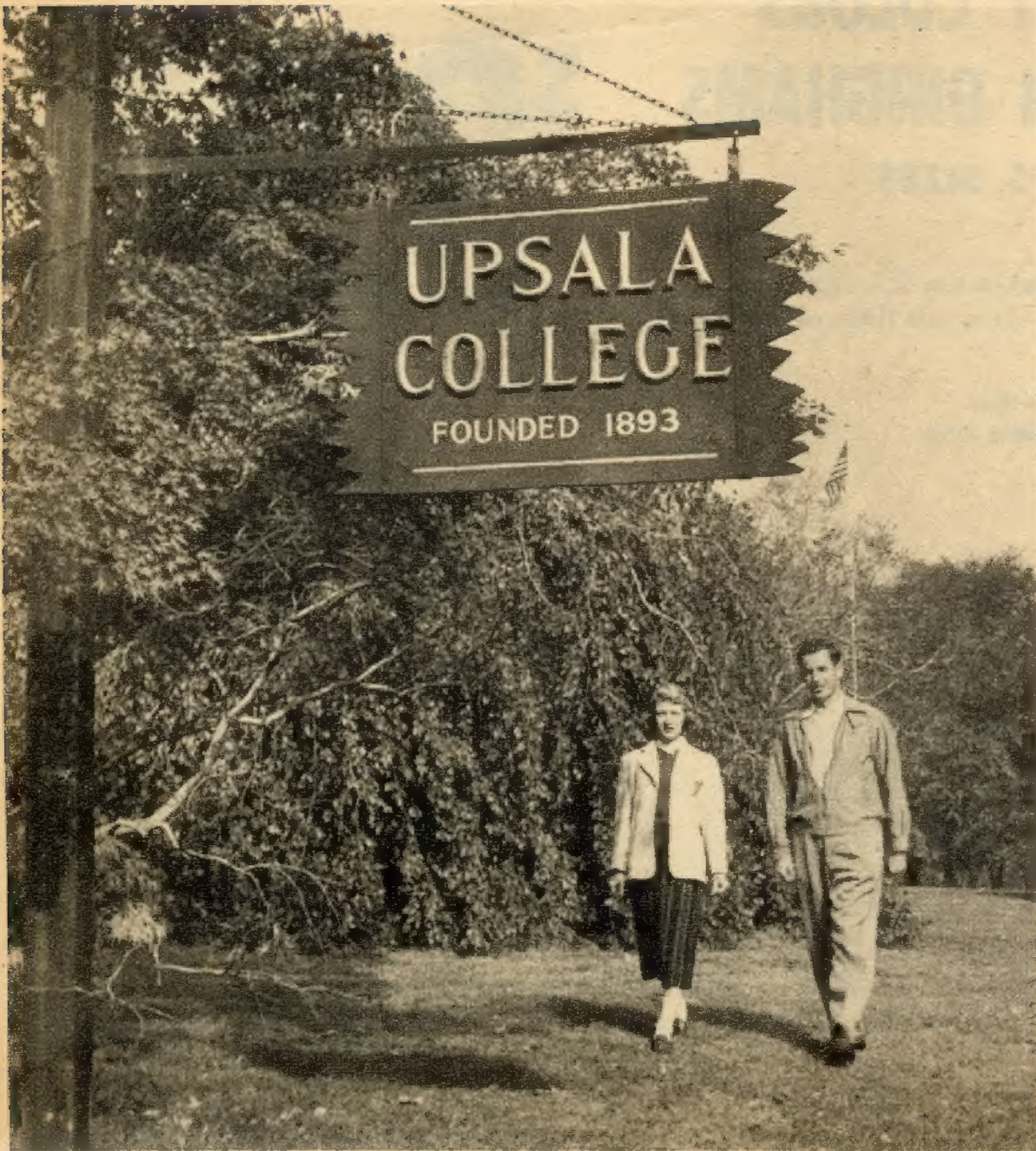


NEW JERSEY COLLEGES:



On the East Orange hill "... where the American flag flies. There is Upsala College." The student body numbers 1,400 men and women.



Kenbrook Hall, which combines the names of Upsala's former sites, Kenilworth and Brooklyn, is a women's dormitory and social hall.

CAMPUS with a 'COLONIAL LOOK'

By JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM

ONE sentence is close at hand whenever Dr. Evald B. Lawson, president of Upsala College speaks. "America," he'll say, quoting Harvard historian Samuel Eliot Morison, "has never had the equal of her little hill-top colleges."

In a general sense Dr. Lawson means all the little hilltop colleges of all times, but what he's really thinking about is his own Upsala growing on the slope where Orange Mountain falls away into the valley off toward Newark. It's not quite a hill-top, but in urban Essex County it's the next best thing.

Every college has a "blueprint," with "buildings of the future" inked in here and there in case any wealthy donor happens by in the hope of hav-

ing a building named after him. Visiting Upsala, however, is like stepping into the middle of the traditional blueprint coming true—and not because any one wealthy donor happened by, either.

Anyone approaching this East Orange campus for the first time—or, much better yet, approaching it for the first time in 10 years—must be impressed by the vision of an institution well along in the metamorphosis from a few old mansions called a college into a genuine campus with a New England colonial look.

THE blueprint is about half come true, and this has all happened in a single decade. When World War II started, Upsala College was three old

Founded in Brooklyn and Transplanted to Kenilworth, Upsala Moved to East Orange for the Room Needed to Develop Its College Building Program Now at Midway Point

mansions, a few nearby houses, and a couple of converted stables—doing a reasonably good job, but unceasingly handicapped by poor physical facilities. Two of the original old mansions still remain, but since 1945 two substantial dormitories, a large three-story classroom building, a dining hall, and the first unit of a chapel have been completed. Well underway is a new gymnasium-auditorium.

The amazing thing is that this transformation happened quite by chance. Just after World War II, following one of Dr. Lawson's speaking engagements in New York, a man introduced himself by saying, "I'm Jens Larson."

"Jens Frederick Larson, the architect?" asked the Upsala president. It

was indeed Jens Frederick Larson, probably America's foremost designer of college campuses and consulting architect of the Assn. of American Colleges; the man who was Dartmouth's architect for 30 years, who planned Colby College's complete new campus and who now is planning the new Wake Forest College campus in Winston-Salem, N.C.

A few days later, Mr. Larson visited East Orange, walked about the tree-shaded campus and inspected the far-from-prepossessing buildings. He urged a campus plan—not one building, not two buildings—but "something vast, something big enough to interest people."

"I was floored," recalls Dr. Lawson.

This is the ninth of a series of articles which not only describe New Jersey's colleges and universities, but tell the story of the growth and traditions of individual colleges within the state, picture their roles in modern education and explain how the plan to meet what has been called "an impending tide of students."

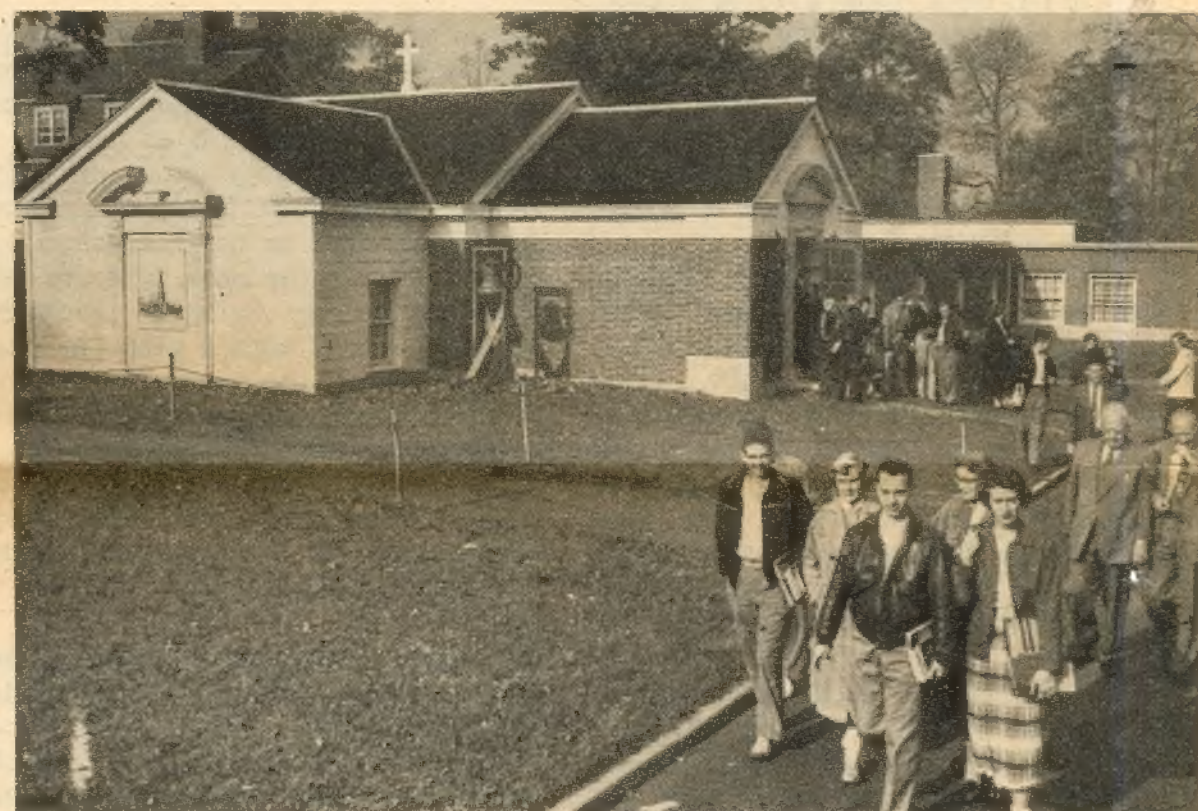
Next Sunday: Georgian Court College.



"Old Main," one of three original mansions on campus when Upsala moved to East Orange in 1924. At that time it held all classrooms and laboratories. **RIGHT:** Frederika Bremer Hall, first of two brick colonial dormitories, viewed from Kenbrook portico.



Dr. Evald B. Lawson, Upsala president, studies expansion blueprints, the work of Jens Frederick Larson, noted American architect.



Students and members of the faculty and administrative staff leaving the partially completed Christ Chapel after the daily service.

"I had never even hoped to build more than one building in my lifetime."

THE Upsala president had good reason for being skeptical. He had been aware of Upsala College all his life—far more intimately aware of his college than most presidents ever get to be. He had known all three of his predecessor presidents. While still a small boy he had met an Upsala College president visiting his Massachusetts home town soliciting funds. An Upsala president, then a church pastor, urged young Evald Lawson to come to the New Jersey college—located at the time in Kenilworth.

Dr. Lawson was a junior in Kenilworth when the college bought three old mansions in East Orange in 1924. He returned to Upsala as president in 1938 at the age of 34, one of the youngest college presidents in the land. He had known Upsala all his life—and never had he been inclined to think in terms of a complete campus overhaul.

However, the architect convinced the president. He etched the blueprint of a campus, for all the world like something drawn from the rocky New England hillside so dear to Dr. Lawson's boyhood. The president couldn't resist the brick Colonial handsomeness. In October, 1945, just as the first great rush of GIs swept over all college campuses, Upsala laid the cornerstone for Bremer Hall, the first of two brick colonial dormitories.

ROLLING headlong across its blueprint, Upsala felt the shock of 1,600 young men and women seeking an education at the peak of the postwar jam. Looking back on it, Upsala in those days was little short of chaotic—with classes from 8 a.m. until after 10 p.m. (all labeled as "day" classes, by the way), with hopelessly crowded facilities, with men and machines pounding away on new buildings.

Then, in the midst of all the hectic pace, Upsala dedicated its new brick three-story classroom building in the memory of Lars Herman Beck. Any-

one who could find a quiet corner to muse upon the story of Dr. Beck, Upsala's first president, might have found the seemingly chaotic 1940s relatively settled in comparison with the days when Dr. Beck founded Upsala in 1893.

Theoretically the Augustana Lutheran Church backed Dr. Beck financially as well as spiritually. Certainly the church fathers seemed pleased at the thought of an American college named Upsala being founded in 1893. That very year Swedish people everywhere celebrated the 300th anniversary of a 1593 convocation in Upsala, Sweden, where Sweden had pledged allegiance to the doctrines of the Reformation.

So, the Lutherans founded a college in Brooklyn. Upsala Institute of Learning they called it, because New York laws forbade the name "college" for any institution with less than a \$500,000 endowment. Upsala had no half million. Upsala, Dr. Beck later recalled, "had not a single cent" when it called him to be president. He was

to get \$1,000 salary, provided, of course, he could raise it himself.

STRUGGLE? Chaos? Colleges of 1945 or 1955 never had it so good. Upsala's first 16 students met in a Brooklyn church basement, and the college began "with singing, Scripture reading and prayer." Things went badly nevertheless. Professors took extra jobs so they could afford the luxury of teaching. One professor, it was later learned, augmented his income by stealing; when the Brooklyn police arrested him, Dr. Beck wrote in his diary: "Naturally we could not use him any more."

A real estate promoter visited Brooklyn in the fall of 1897, carrying tales of a fine city named New Orange he planned to build in New Jersey. Apparently in the hope that an Augustana Lutheran college would induce Swedes to settle in New Orange, he approached Upsala, offering land and a "sum of money" if Upsala would come to New Jersey.

(Continued on Following Page)

UPSALA COLLEGE

(Continued From Preceding Page)

Dr. Beck reckoned that if the college had "had a few thousand dollars at our disposal then we would probably never have moved." But, as he said, "necessity knows no law," so off to New Orange, N.J., moved Upsala Institute of Learning. There were two consolations: It cost only \$16 to move the entire college, so few were its material possessions, and in New Jersey no half million dollars was required for the name "college." The institute became Upsala College in 1898—in name, at any rate.

INCREDIBLE vicissitudes followed. Often Dr. Beck and his associates toured neighboring towns begging articles to sell at college bazaars. Dr. Beck sought funds everywhere and anytime, being pleased with 25 cents, delighted with \$1 and amazed at \$5. If ever colleges are lined up in order of early handicaps, Upsala will stand near the front of the line.

Yet Dr. Beck found \$12,400 to build a new classroom building, called "Old Main." How will we find it, asked friends who wished to come to the dedication. Proudly Dr. Beck responded: "Look out for the hill where the American flag is flying. There is Upsala College."

New Orange grew slowly, changed its name to Kenilworth but Upsala College fared only moderately well, to give it the benefit of doubt. Peter Froeberg succeeded Dr. Beck in 1912 and before he left the presidency in 1918, he had fought and conquered another financial crisis. This time the Union County sheriff stood by to foreclose; just in time President Froeberg raised \$40,000 and saved the college.

Finally, after C. G. Erickson became president in 1920, everyone agreed it was time to shake loose from the depressing doubts and fears that had always overlain the college in Kenilworth. A campaign in 1922 managed to raise \$400,000, well over the \$228,000 needed to buy 22 acres and three mansions on Prospect St., East Orange.

THERE, in 1924, about 100 Upsala students moved. Most of them were members of the supporting church and many of them planned to enter the ministry of the Augustana Lutheran Church. Promptly they gave the name "Old Main" to the mansion known locally as "King's Folly" (because when King built it East Orange was so far from all things civilized).

The class of 1925, first to graduate in East Orange, included Evald Lawson of Brockton, Mass. He became a minister in the Augustana Lutheran Church and served 10 years before being called to Upsala in 1938.

It's probable Dr. Lawson couldn't see the woes of his little college as clearly as most, possibly not even so clearly as the 300 students he found when he returned as president. After all, here was a man whose father long ago had paused at his shop bench in Brockton to give an Upsala College president a small donation. Here was



"U" burning in traditional Spring Week festival symbolizes successful completion of one year's activity and another's start.

a man who as a boy had read the Upsala Gazette every Sunday afternoon at home. Small boy, undergraduate, graduate—Upsala had been his life.

The vision of a new future came, as related, from Jens Fredrick Larson. All Upsala had to do was raise the money. Yet, at the same time the college had to try to keep academic standards at as high a plane as possible in view of the cramped quarters. Campus acreage expanded (up to 40 acres now) and the college bought more old adjacent mansions for its science laboratories and temporary dormitories. It used surplus Army barracks for classrooms.

SWEEPING changes occurred as the student body rose from 100 in 1924 to 300 in 1938 and 1,600 in 1948. Once virtually every student had a Swedish name and a blond head—and as often as not looked forward to being either a minister or a minister's wife.

Today Swedish traditions linger on but the Swedish names and blond Scandinavian heads are in the minority. More than 20 states are represented at Upsala and several foreign students lend diversity to the campus picture. Although about 20 per cent of the students are still members of the Augustana Lutheran Church, every major faith is represented on campus.

At Upsala, however, every athlete is a Viking or a Norseman (by nickname, at any rate). The refurbished athletic grounds at the foot of the hill bear the name Viking Field. Every student pronounces (or should) his college's name as it is pronounced at Upsala University in Sweden (that's Up-sah-la, not Ups-ulla). At spring weekend old grads and students burn a huge U on campus, preserving, according to one version, an old custom of Upsala in Sweden—although there is no conclusive evidence that a U has ever been burned at Old Upsala.

THE student body has leveled off at about 1,400 men and women. Pleasantly enough, from a female standpoint, at least, for every coed enrolled



Viking lettermen discussing football prospects with Coach John Hooper are (l. to r.) Fred Hill, East Orange; Bob Cupit, Clifton; Bob Filoramo, Bloomfield.



Students taking the nursing degree program prepare experiment in chemistry laboratory under supervision of Dr. Karl J. Schwing.

there are two male students. This might seem a pleasant arrangement athletically too, but surprisingly enough boyish 28-year-old football coach John Hooper last fall could round up only about 25 men for his once-defeated Vikings. Coach Don Walker has had equally few men from which to form his great baseball teams.

Last fall's gridiron success in a roundabout way indicates the road Upsala plans to travel. Some alumni, emboldened by the football successes, beat the drums for bigger and better opponents—bigger and better from the space they get on the sports pages, not necessarily from their academic standing. Coaches Hooper and Walker and the Upsala administration would prefer rivalries with such as Tufts, Bates, Wesleyan and other colleges where high academic standing is not a nasty phrase.

Upsala College, therefore, will do more than merely look like a transplanted New England college 10 years hence, if Dr. Lawson has his way. He visions a maximum student body of 1,500 rather than 3,000 or 5,000 or more.

"We're not interested in becoming big," explains the Upsala president. "We want to do more in the way of selectivity. We are seeking constantly to upgrade our academic standing."

AT the moment Upsala is rigidly inspecting its curriculum. Emphasis will continue on liberal arts training, with the intent to strengthen and possibly to expand the core curriculum required of every student. That will bring Upsala closer to the liberal arts traditions so dear to famed New England colleges and to many of the "small hilltop colleges" everywhere.

Upsala has a wide range of courses

of study. About one graduate in three prepares for a B.S. in business administration. Another high percentage of graduates are prepared to teach in elementary or secondary schools. The college is cooperating with Mountain-side Hospital in a four-year program whereby Mountainside trainees graduate with both a B.S. from Upsala and a nursing diploma. The college also gives nurses from East Orange General, Orange Memorial and Clara Maass hospitals the science courses they need in their two-year diploma courses.

Despite great handicaps because of crowded and outmoded physical facilities, Upsala has built a good reputation in the sciences. Chemistry and physics classrooms and laboratories occupy one of the original mansions. Now "Old Main," the erstwhile "King's Folly," is crammed from basement to attic. Perhaps a graduate of 20 years ago might smile ruefully at the word "crammed"; in those days "Old Main" housed all classrooms and laboratories.

Beck Hall has relieved a great deal of that old pressure, but biological

sciences have spread into another nearby house. Geology is taught in some of the still useful postwar converted barracks—and despite the lack of ideal quarters Upsala has an exceptionally fine department of geology. The collection of geological materials is said to be one of the best in any small college in the country.

No wonder, therefore, that Dr. Lawson hopes eagerly that a science building can be built within the next five years or so. First of all, however, he wants to build a new library—and that brings him back to the living blueprint of Jens Larson.

"I want to live to see a library, a hall of science, a fully completed chapel and more dormitories," says Dr. Lawson. "I fully expect to; I'm only 51 years old now."

The library will replace "Old Main" and with Beck Hall on one side and the science building on the other would make a big academic "U" on the east campus. Down the hill on the east campus the new gymnasium is nearing completion and Viking Field has been modernized, so students



Beck Hall, named for Upsala's first president, Lars Herman Beck, houses 16 classrooms. Colonial "look" extends even to arched colonnade.



Prof. James Yoltan describes rock structure to a geology student. College has one of country's finest collections of geological materials.

headed downward to earn their athletic "U" must one day first pass through the academic "U."

Up on the west campus (with Prospect St. dividing "east" from "west") the residential and spiritual life will be centered. Old Kenbrook Hall, one of the original mansions and a thing of splendid beauty, will be retained as a women's dormitory and social hall—the only one of the mansions to be retained. Two dormitories are finished, two more are plotted and possibly even close at hand.

DOMINATING the west campus, and, for that matter, the entire campus, will be Christ Chapel. The blueprint calls for a brick tower, topped by a lofty pointed spire—again in the best colonial traditions. The spire is expected to be finished sometime between 1960 and 1965, but already the chapel is started.

Christ Chapel can typify the Upsala advance. There weren't enough funds to build the chapel, so architect Larson planned it to be built in sections. What eventually will be the basement is now finished and in use as a good, if temporary chapel and small auditorium. Indicative of things to come is Jens Fredrick Larson Family Memorial, a quiet meditation chapel off the basement room.

The two planned dormitories, along with Bremer and Nelsenius halls (built in the present "blueprint" era), will form a spacious quadrangle behind the chapel, with a new dining hall filling in the western side. This will bring the total of residential students to almost 600, compared with 280 students now living in campus dormitories and another 100 living in college-approved houses nearby.

Upsala won't—and, for that matter, can't—forget its responsibilities to young men and women living within walking or commuting distance. This region, after all, is where most of the college's 4,000 alumni originated. Upsala has other community obligations, too; since no single contributor has

advanced huge sums of money, the college has depended on many gifts from nearby friends.

Friends can be cultivated in many ways, of course, and one of the chief agencies of good will is the noted Upsala College Choir organized in 1938. Each year the choir goes on an extended tour for 10 days or two weeks, each year it sings an Advent Evensong service in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York and each spring it sings for friends and neighbors on the Upsala campus.

TOMORROW, tumbling headlong on the heels of today, faces Upsala as it faces all colleges. Dr. Lawson has carefully considered the fact that college enrollments are supposed to double by 1970. Where does this leave Upsala; how will Upsala meet this problem?

"We feel we're meeting it right now," avers Dr. Lawson. "We think we've been doing our part in the past few years toward meeting the bulge. We have built and we are building toward that future. We'll be ready—not to be big, but to be a good, sound academic institution."

Thus a blueprint comes to life. It's far from finished (if ever college blueprints can be called finished). Some of the old buildings still in use are far from the heritage of colonial architecture in a small hilltop college. Some academic problems can't be solved until new buildings are ready. Some crowding is still much apparent.

Nonetheless, there is a sweeping air of excitement on the East Orange hillside. The incredible struggles of Lars Herman Beck are far enough behind the Upsala College of today so they can be recalled with a mixture of respect tempered by amusement. Ten years from now, if all goes well, when someone asks how to find the finished Upsala College, Dr. Lawson can say:

"Look on the East Orange hill, where the tall spire stands and where the American flag flies over the colonial campus. There is Upsala."